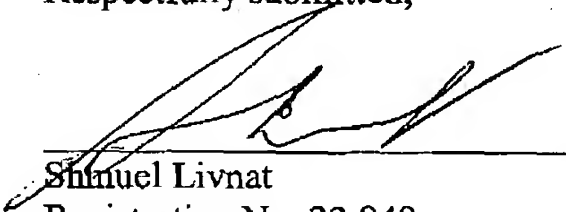


**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is made to eliminate improper multiple claim dependencies, previously overlooked by applicants but kindly brought to their attention by Examiner Blanchard. No new matter is added. Examination of the claims on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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